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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Association of United Families International

(Special; 1999)

PART I. Introduction

i. Mission and Purpose:

The Association of United Families International (UFI) is a 501 (c) (3) educational organization devoted to maintaining and strengthening the family as the fundamental unit of society. UFI is a nondenominational organization and is not affiliated with any specific government, religion or political party.

UFI promotes public policies that preserve and protect the family while working to strengthen disadvantaged families and children through humanitarian projects worldwide. UFI affirms that a family perspective must be the cornerstone of international, national and local policies. UFI sends representatives, including experts on family issues, to UN conferences to provide legal analysis and scholarly research in support of UN delegates working to preserve the family.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies:
UFI participated in the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and its subsidiary bodies, conferences and meetings by sending representatives during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005. The following United Nations conferences and events were attended by UFI representatives:

2003 at United Nations Headquarters:

- 41st session of the Commission for Social Development - 10-21 February
- 47th session of the Commission on the Status of Women - 3-14 March
- 36th session of the Commission on Population and Development - 31 March – 4 April

2004

- 48th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (48th) United Nations headquarters 1-12 March
- Human Rights Commission Geneva: 15 March – 23 April
- Commission on Population and Development (The World Reaffirms Cairo) United Nations headquarters: 21 June and 14 October
- International Year of Family: 6 December
- Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: Puerto Rico, 28 June – 2 July

2005 at United Nations headquarters:

- 32nd session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women Compliance Meetings: 10-28 January
- Beijing + 10 Conference: Forty-Ninth Session of the Commission on the Status of Women: 28 February – 11 March
- Work group of the 6th Committee on "United Nations Declaration on Human Cloning": 14, 15 and 18 February
- General Assembly High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS: 2 June
- 61st session of the Commission on Human Rights: Geneva, 14 March – 22 April

iii) Initiatives by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals:
In harmony with the need for HIV/AIDS education and intervention, UFI sponsors The Stay Alive Program, an HIV/AIDS education/prevention program in several nations in Africa. It is a culturally-based, trainer of trainers program that teaches children 9-12 consequential thinking and life skills through age-appropriate curriculum and songs. Over 700,000 children were served in 2003, 2004 and 2005.

i) Activities in Support of Global Principles

- UFI published the United Nations Negotiating Guide in 2002. The Negotiating Guide acts as a repository for United Nations outcome documents. The Guide has become a widely used tool for referencing family language in prior United Nations documents. It is used to educate and empower delegates and others interested in promoting issues related to children and their families. The Negotiating Guide underwent a complete update in 2005 to include the more recent outcome documents. Constitutions of United Nations member states, as well as relevant country information, were also added to the Guide.
- In 2004 and 2005, UFI assigned two permanent representatives to the United Nations Headquarters in New York City in the United States of America. Their assignment was to attend United Nations conferences, meetings and events, and to contribute as needed. These representatives worked to educate on family issues, trained diplomats on the use of the Negotiating Guide, organized side events, and gave assistance to various member state missions as appropriate.
- UFI published a series of educational booklets on topics related to the family. The *Guide to Family Issues* provides peer-reviewed scientific research and expert commentary on various topics that are pertinent to our work in the United Nations system. We use these guides to educate the public as well as offer them as research tools to United Nations ambassadors and diplomats. During 2003, 2004 and 2005, three new *Guides* were published and distributed.
- In November 2003, UFI hosted the 2nd Southwest Regional World Congress of Families in Mesa, Arizona in the United States. The gathering brought together government leaders,

United Nations ambassadors and delegates, experts on family issues and world-renowned scholars to explore solutions and strategies to the widespread disintegration of the family and its effect on society and nations of the world.

2. Buddha's Light International Association

(Special; 2003)

Introduction:

Due to rapid changes in society brought about by the technological advancements of the modern era, (unsettling conditions are always a factor influencing the world surrounding us), it behooves Buddhist practitioners of the Mahayana tradition to shoulder the responsibility of providing answers to this dreary but true state of affairs. To achieve these aims, the members of Buddha's Light International Association devote themselves to five major working programs worldwide for all of mankind:

1. Educational activities to introduce self-cultivated habits among people;
2. Cultural activities to spread joy and harmony within society;
3. Promotional activities to promote respect and tolerance among human beings;
4. Charitable activities to assist suffering people regain productivity;
5. Social Service activities to reduce the negative impacts of economic progress on human development.

Contribution of the Organization to the work of the United Nations:

As a newer Non-governmental Organization (NGO) accredited by the Economic and Social Council, BLIA has not fully participated in major conferences instituted by the Council and its subsidiary bodies, or in other United Nations meetings in this period. However, BLIA has started its learning process with the strong intention of being a capable player to support the development aims of the Council and the United Nations at large. To this end, BLIA's representatives attended the following major conferences:

1. United Nations Commission on the Status of Women – 48th session (1-12 March 2004), 49th session (28 February – 11 March, 2005);
2. Department of Public Information (DPI) NGO Conference – 57th (8-10 September, 2004), 58th (7-9 September, 2005). (Note: BLIA also received DPI's associated relationship status on 16 December, 2003)

Besides attending major conferences, BLIA members actively responded to the call initiated by the bodies of United Nations system in emergency relief actions:

1. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) relief efforts for earthquake in Bam, Islamic Republic of Iran, 26 December 2003. BLIA donated $100,000 to the United States Fund for UNICEF on 8 January 2004;

2. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) relief efforts for South Asia Tsunami 26 December 2004. BLIA mobilized the chapters in Medan, Indonesia, Chennai, India, Colombo, Sri Lanka and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to provide emergency shelter and food supplies, as well as housing reconstruction assistance in tsunami-affected areas, and held a global fund-raising campaign. The total funding between December 2004 and February 2005 was approximately $1,000,000. Eighty permanent houses were constructed in Village of Vakadu, Nellore, in India.

3. The OCHA relief efforts for earthquake in Kashmir region, in India and in Pakistan on 8 October 2005. BLIA sponsored housing reconstruction in Village of Sukhadani, Uri Region, Jammu and Kashmir, and India. Forty-two residential houses were rebuilt at a total cost of $40,000.

In addition, BLIA's affiliated chapters at the country level initiated several ongoing projects to support the themes of the Millennium Development Goals led by the United Nations. The following major actions have been undertaken:

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.

- In Poompuhar and Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu, India. A vocational training center facilitating with 10 typewriters and 6 computers was established;

- In Cotia, Sao Paulo, Brazil. 500 neighborhood children received nutritional care 2 days per week, including 300 children organized in community soccer league;

- In Foz do, Brazil and Iguacu, Paraguay. 48 soybean milk machines produced 160,000 liters of soybean milk for 7,500 households per month;

- In the Republic of Paraguay working with the *Despacho de la Primera Dama de la Nación*, led by the First Lady Doña María Gloria. Two hundred and six soy machines produced 1,000,000 liters of soybean milk. The rich soybean byproducts were used to produce bread.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education.

- In Guangdong, Jiangxi, Shaanxi Province, China. 26 "Hope" schools with new classrooms were reconstructed.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women.

- In Poompuhar and Nagapattinam District, Tamil Nadu, India. A free tailoring training center for women with 20 sewing machines was established.

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality.

- In Iguacu, Paraguay. 12 incubators for caring for newborn babies were sponsored and installed in free clinic and local health facilities. Over 2,000 newborn babies have received intensive care involving incubators.

Goal 5: Improve maternal health.

- In Iguacu, Paraguay. A clinic for gynecology and obstetrics as well as pediatrics was established. This free health facility has served over 200,000 patients and delivered nearly 10,000 new-born babies since 2003.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- In Limbe, Malawi. An AIDS Care Center has been established and around 100 AIDS orphans have been cared for.

Future Collaboration:

However, communication with several agencies did generate obstacles to expanding BLIA's working program on a global scale. For example, when BLIA's staff Mr. Shou-Jen Kuo, Executive Secretary of World Headquarters, read the UN press release, "Japanese football star Nakata spotlights WFP school feeding in Cambodia" dated 14 December 2006, he immediately responded to Mr. Paul Risley of World Food Programme (WFP) in Bangkok, Thailand, who had been identified as a contact person in WFP's "school feeding" program within the news article, and expressed BLIA's willingness to be a productive partner, especially in those traditionally Buddhist countries of the Indo-China region. But no further connection has been established since then.

BLIA and its affiliated chapters in over 60 countries and regions continuously promise to fully cooperate with the Economic and Social Council and its specialized agencies in the implementation of United Nations programs. Given the membership network and strong mission vision for the development of human society, BLIA shall be a capable partner among the NGOs in consultative status with Economic and Social Council currently.

3. International Federation of Persons with Physical Disability

(Special; 1983)

1. Brief introductory statement recalling the aims and purpose of the organization

FIMITIC was created in 1953 and regards itself as an International Non-Governmental Human Rights Federation of Persons with Physical Disability. FIMITIC is a non-profit, religiously and politically neutral umbrella organization of representative national organizations of physically disabled persons and parents' organizations of physically disabled persons who are unable to speak for themselves. The purpose of FIMITIC shall be the improvement of social, occupational

and societal conditions of persons with physical disabilities. FIMITIC promotes the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons and fights against their discrimination.

During the period under review there has been an increase in the geographical partnership, including the Baltic region – Lithuania and the Balkan region - Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo (Serbia) - as well as liaison in Australia (for the Asia-Pacific-Region).

FIMITIC has Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and was on the ILO Special List. It had Consultative Status with the Council of Europe, and close cooperation with the European Commission and the European Parliament and was full member of the European Disability Forum.

2. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings

FIMITIC was conscious of the privilege of being in relationship with Economic and Social Council and the United Nations system, which is the sole institution empowered to keep peace in the world and without peace no social progress will ever be possible.

Through its network, FIMITIC disseminated Resolutions, Decisions and other texts adopted by the United Nations and was able to bring to public attention the voices of disadvantaged groups of physically disabled people who have not at their disposal the means or cannot make their voices heard. Unfortunately scarcity of funds and a small staff (all volunteers) make attendance at international meetings very difficult. However, constant contact with United Nations and the NGO liaison staff in United Nations offices in Vienna, Geneva and New York was maintained. Regular information/reports were submitted to the United Nations Department of Public Information. FIMITIC representatives attended the 57th Annual DPI/NGO Conference "Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action" on 8-10 September 2004 at the United Nations headquarters and was involved and participated in the Ad hoc Preparatory Committee meetings: 2nd (16-27 June 2003), 3rd (24 May-4 June 2004), 4th (23 August-3 September 2004), 5th (24 January-4 February 2005); 6th (1-12 August 2005); 7th (16 January-February 2006); and 8th (14-25 August and 5 December 2006) to the International Convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, all at the United Nations Headquarters.

FIMITIC focused its intervening actions following carefully the United Nations reports on disability, ageing, family, women, social development and peace within the debates.

The adoption of the United Nations Convention on human rights for people with disabilities on 13 December 2006 in New York was a historic event, which received a most favourable response from the FIMITIC network and led to intense campaigns in the network countries.

3. Co-operation with UN programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

FIMITIC has traditionally supported the efforts of the United Nations and its bodies to advocate on behalf of people with physical disabilities, most recently those in armed conflicts. FIMITIC's work was based on the principles and structures laid down in the 1993 United Nations Standard

Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and the new Human rights Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The basic tasks of the FIMITIC were to:

- Make the all-inclusive nature of the United Nations Convention known publicly and urge States, in co-operation with the member associations in the individual countries, to sign the Convention and the Optional Protocol towards ratification. The member associations were requested to make in their own countries every effort to ensure the implementation by their governments;

- Provide full support to the United Nations efforts in the preparatory stage towards the Agreement reached on the United Nations Convention by oral and written contributions, statements and attendance by the FIMITIC representative in the Ad hoc Convention meetings and the parallel NGO meetings and side events;

- Maintain close links with the Offices–in–charge of the International Labour Office (ILO) and World Health Organization (WHO) Units;

- Make its voice heard while seeking effective solutions depending on widespread recognition of human rights, individual needs, political commitment, effective and integrated strategies and adequate resources for the needed actions to be taken and to find solidarity with groups and nations, especially in the process of democracy and peacemaking in countries in transition and in development.

On the basis of its work programme, priorities included the following issues: employment, social security, accessibility, discrimination, new technologies, violence, women, youth and senior citizens. FIMITIC focused its activities on ensuring the equalisation of opportunities and full participation of persons with physical disability. Supported by networks and expert groups, FIMITIC actively cooperated with national and international organisations and institutions of the physically disabled. The objectives were (a) to improve social relations among persons with physical disability throughout the world to strengthen the national member organisations' powers to represent the interests of physically disabled persons; (b) to enhance exchange of experiences and opinions through holding meetings, conferences and organising other gatherings; (c) to develop approaches and actions for dealing with authorities, influential institutions and other bodies in matters of a supra-national nature, aimed at furthering the rights and opportunities of persons with physical disability in order to achieve social equality and full participation in community life.

The FIMITIC-project work "countries in transition", presented at the FIMITIC Congress on Equal Opportunities – Employability for Persons with Disabilities on 16 October 2001 in Prague, Czech Republic, took account of their special requirements during the European Year of People with Disabilities (EYPD) - 2003. The social security was undergoing great changes during the period under review, especially in the Middle East. European member countries interchange on the way to new challenges has only been conducted with the assistance and input of representative organisations of disabled people both at a national and at international level. By providing specific directions to member associations and institutions with efficient knowledge about the structure, functioning and working methods of the United Nations and with efficient

means of communication and speedy access to all information relevant to physically disabled persons, the experience of FIMITIC in the field, appearance and knowledge was spread towards creating positive preconditions for improved co-operation with the United Nations. FIMITIC thus did continue to actively support the work of the United Nations.

4. Other relevant activities

FIMITIC Congresses, Seminars, Training Courses and Meetings

European Year of People with Disabilities EYPD: (a) Sociopolitical Event "Europe of Equal Citizens – A Society for All on 3-6 April 2003 in Rome, Italy; (b) Third FIMITIC Women Conference entitled "Improving Quality of Life of Women with Disability" on 7-9 November 2003 in Zagreb, Croatia.

Implementation of United Nations Standard Rules on Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly at its 48th session on 20 December 1993 (Resolution 48/96) and consisting of 22 thematic Rules:

2003: Thematic United Nations Standard Rules meetings with FIMITIC member associations in Athens, Greece – Rule 11 Recreation and sports, Grado and Udine, Italy - Rules 3 Rehabilitation and 15 Legislation and Kromdorf/Weimar, Germany - Rules 2 Medical care and 22 International cooperation Bucharest, Romania, Seminar on Rule 5 Accessibility and in Bratislava, Slovakia – Rule 14 Policy making and planning.

2004: Regional thematic United Nations Standard Rules seminars with FIMITIC member associations in Tallinn, Estonia – Baltic region - Rule 1 Awareness-raising and 20 National monitoring and evaluation of disability programmes in the implementation of the Rules; Tirana, Albania – Balkan region - Rule 8 Income maintenance and social security; Porto, Portugal – Empowerment seminar – Rule 15 Legislation.

2005: Thematic United Nations Standard Rules meetings with FIMITIC member associations in Budapest, Hungary – Rule 16 Economic policies, Vienna, Austria – Rule 21 Technical and economic cooperation , Slovenia (Ljubljana) – Rule 7 Employment and Nottwil, Switzerland - Rules 2 Medical care and 3 Rehabilitation.

2006: Thematic United Nations Standard Rules meetings with member associations in Budapest, Hungary – Rule 22 International cooperation and Vienna, Austria - Rule 14 Policy making and planning.

Publications: In respect of the principles of the United Nations Charter, supported by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Declaration no. 3447 on the Rights of the Disabled at the abovementioned meetings resolutions were passed and the following publications made:

Resolutions: on the occasion of the abovementioned activities: 2003 Statement "Europe of Equal citizens - A Society for All"; Resolutions "Improving Quality of Life of Women with Disability" and "Accessibility - a matter of Dignity for the whole Society"; 2005 Resolution "Medical progress for everybody – Requirements for a fair distribution of medical services".

Press releases on various occasions and disability issues during the period under review. Reports of the proceedings were featured on television and radio and in national dailies on the themes "For peace and respect of human dignity" and "Global health priority issue towards equal opportunities for disabled people".

Interregional projects/Regional and country projects Following the United Nations Initiative to declare the 3rd December of each year as "International Day of Disabled Persons" the FIMITIC and its members organized and participated in events demonstrating the need to ensure equal rights and equal opportunities for disabled people, especially through the European Day of Disabled Persons:

2003: "A voice of our own" and "2003 - European Year of people with disability".

2004: "Nothing about Us without Us", "Helping people with disabilities find and keep jobs" and "Creating the conditions to promote the Employment of People with disabilities.

2005: "Rights of Persons with Disabilities: Action in Development" and "Living together in Society".

2006: "E-Accessibility" and "Youth=Future. Let's make an equal future for all".

In Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean the member liaisons of FIMITIC were continuously taking part in the disability prevention and rehabilitation programmes.

4. International Planned Parenthood Federation (Europe Region)

(Special; 2003)

PART I: Introduction

i. Aims, purposes and main courses of action

The Mission of the International Planned Parenthood Federation European Network (IPPF EN) is **"to advance the basic human right of all people to make free and informed choices in their sexual and reproductive lives; and to fight for the accessibility to high-quality information, education and health services regarding sexuality and sexual identities, conception, contraception, safe abortion and STI/HIV/AIDS."** IPPF EN works to further its mission by supporting a network of 41 member associations in Europe and Central Asia, and by proactively advocating for donor government support to international development in general, and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) in particular. IPPF EN's action is conducted within the framework of its 2004-2008 strategic plan. IPPF EN is one of the six regions of the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

ii. Significant changes since 2003

a) In June 2004 the IPPF EN constitution was amended to modify the organization's aims and purposes to read as specified in bold print in paragraph (i) above, with the additional wording: "In furtherance of the foregoing objects but no further or otherwise the Region shall have the power: to stimulate and assist organisations active in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in all countries within the Europe region; to encourage the training of medical, paramedical, social welfare, educational and other appropriate personnel in the practical implementation of sexual and reproductive health services; to organise regional meetings and conferences; and to take all appropriate measures to further the above objects." Other significant amendments to the IPPF EN constitution covered the following items:

- IPPF EN had been a registered charity in both the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (separate from the IPPF) and Belgium, where the regional office established itself in 1999. It was decided to de-register as a United Kingdom Charity for practical reasons. The constitutional amendment reflects this status.

- In 1995-1996 IPPF Europe Region changed its name to IPPF European Network and revised its aims and objects but this had never been changed in the Constitution because of the United Kingdom Charity Commission's regulations. This was updated.

- Majority voting in the Regional Council was amended to 50% +1; the maximum tenure of regional honorary offices was amended from 3 times 2 years to 2 times 3 years; and total tenure as a regional council member was limited to a maximum of 12 years.

b) IPPF EN admitted two new member associations during the reporting period, bringing the total membership to 41. The new members are the Tajik Family Planning Alliance (Tajikistan, 2004) and the Health Education and Research Association (HERA) (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 2006).

c) In 2004 IPPF EN regional office adopted a new strategic plan for 2004-2008. This strategic plan, which reiterates the organization's mission and values, defines IPPF EN's key intervention areas as Access to SRHR information and services; Adolescent SRHR; safe Abortion; combating HIV/AIDS; and Advocacy for SRHR. The second of the two strategic objectives under the Advocacy goal of the strategic plan is "to improve the priority of SRHR in the development agenda and increase the allocation of resources to it."

PART II: Contribution of IPPF EN to the work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

- United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE): IPPF EN was invited to draft the working document entitled "Official Development Assistance Levels and Spending for SRHR since International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)" for the session on Global Population and Development Trends: The European View.

- IPPF EN attended the following United Nations Commissions and Committee meetings: United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, 1-12 March 2004, United Nations headquarters; Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) Ad Hoc Committee on Population and Development, 10-11 March 2004, Santiago, Chile; United Nations Commission on Population and Development, 22-26 March 2004, United Nations headquarters; United Nations Social Summit, Porto Alegre, 26-31 January, 2005; United Nations Committee on Population and Development, 9-13 April 2006; United Nations General Assembly Special Session High-Level Meeting on AIDS, United Nations headquarters, 31 May – 2 June 2006.

- IPPF EN was invited to attend the World Health Organization (WHO) Europe *Meeting of Focal Points for Family and Community Health*, Malaga, 25-28 September 2006. IPPF EN facilitated a session on how young people view their needs in SRHR.

- IPPF EN Regional Director attended the following meetings of WHO Europe as IPPF representative: *WHO Europe Regional Committee for Europe*, 54th Session, 6-9 September 2004, and 56th Session, Copenhagen 11-14 September 2006; *Regional Advisory Panel on Research and Training in Reproductive Health in the European Region*: Tallinn, 27-29 August 2003 and Ankara, 21-22 April 2005.

- IPPF EN was a partner in the *High-level consultation on improvement of SRHR of young people in Europe*, organized by WHO Europe in Copenhagen, 11-12 December 2006.

- IPPF EN attended the International Conferences on HIV/AIDS held in Bangkok, 11-16 July 2004; and Toronto, 13-18 August, 2006, of which UNAIDS was co-organizer.

ii. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

In 2004 IPPF EN and the WHO Europe entered into a partnership under a 3-year project (2004-2007) funded by the European Commission to promote adolescent sexual and reproductive health in Europe. IPPF EN is a member of the editorial board of the WHO Europe "Entre Nous" magazine on sexual and reproductive health.

iii. Initiatives undertaken in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals

a) Activities organized or undertaken by IPPF EN and/or its members to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Conference on population and Development (ICPD):

- Organization in Dublin with the Irish Family Planning Association, of a conference "Putting ICPD at the heart of European development policy" on 2 April 2004 resulting in the Dublin Declaration on "Partnership to fight HIV/AIDS in Europe and Central Asia".

- Sponsorship of European participants, to the Global Roundtable – Countdown 2015 organized by a coalition of NGOs led by IPPF, in London, 30 August – 3 September 2004.

- Contribution to the European Parliament report "Population and Development: 10 Years after the United Nations Conference in Cairo" by Ms. Karin Junker, Member of European Parliament (2004).
- Conference at the French Senate in Paris on 14-15 April 2005 on "Women's Rights, Sexual Health and Development" attended by government representatives, parliamentarians, NGOs, academic institutes, and participants from francophone African countries.
- Roundtables on ICPD+10 in Albania, Armenia, Georgia and Lithuania (2005)
- Inter-regional meeting on ICPD+10 with Lusophone countries: Lisbon, 17-19 May 2005.
- Participation in the International Parliamentary Conference on the Implementation of the ICPD organized by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Strasbourg, 17-19 October 2004.

b) Activities in support of the Millennium Development Goals and to further the understanding of the contribution of SRHR in reducing poverty

- Compilation of a kit containing information about SRHR, the ICPD Commitment, and fact sheets on international development issues, and distribution to new MEPs (June 2004).
- Two roundtables on SRHR and poverty alleviation for civil servants from the 25 European Union Member States and key players on SRHR issues in the European Union (July 2004 and May 2005).
- Capacity building for IPPF EN members from European Union New Member States to prepare them for their role in advocating for their countries to contribute to development aid, with an emphasis on SRHR. (March 2004; May 2005; June 2006).
- Organization of *Countdown 2015 Europe* (Brussels, 3 October 2006) on health, education, reproductive health supplies and European development policies.

c) Publications in support of internationally agreed develop goals:

- *Moving the Vision Forward:* fact sheet on ICPD+10 in English, French, Portuguese and Russian.
- *Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Watch compilation* prepared for the 2004 International Population Forum organized by the UNECE in January 2004.
- *DAC Report on Luxembourg* drafted and translated into French.
- *Poverty and SRHR: Understanding the Link (2004)*: in English, French, German and Russian
- *Cotonou Watch newsletter* N° 3 February 2003 and N° 4 September 2004
- *Women and HIV/AIDS* fact sheet (1000 copies) (June 2006)

- *Migration and Women* fact sheet (1000 copies): (June 2006)

iv. Activities in support of other Global Principles and Actions

- Vienna NGO Committee on the Status of Women – Consultation session on the Millennium Review Summit, 9 June 2005;

- Together with other Brussels-based NGOs drafted key recommendations to Austria – holding the European Union Presidency from January to July 2006 – for the preparation of the EU statement to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) review on HIV in June 2006 in New York.

5. Permanent Assembly for Human Rights

(Special; 1995)

Part I. Introduction

1. Aims and purposes of the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights (APDH):

- Promote the observation of Human Rights and information about them, in accord with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the international documentation that refers to this question and Constitution of Argentine Republic; play an active role in maintaining the democratic life of the country within a pluralistic society; research, investigate and evaluate the data and information on the national and the international situation in relation to human rights; actively cooperate and promote with political authorities and other social institutions for a real practice of human rights; denounce all violations against human rights, whoever be the agent of such violation; make known the conclusions and studies of both the APDH and other institutions or people who defend human rights; assist all victims of human rights violations and their families; coordinate actions with other institutions involved in the defence and promotion of human rights; promote education, research and investigation of human rights and their role and place in modern society; fulfil the objectives emerging from the respect of both civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights; defend the development of the people in the understanding of all that is essential for the true implementation of human rights in the world.

2. Changes in the organization

a) The APDH has expanded its geographical area of activities. Nowadays, the APDH counts 28 offices throughout Argentina.

b) Since 2005, the organization has had permanent representation at Geneva, Switzerland. This has allowed the APDH to be informed on a daily basis of the events and discussions going on in the Human Rights bodies based in Geneva. Moreover, this has enabled the organization to elaborate accurate comments, observations and ideas to the Human Rights Council and to the human rights treaty bodies.

c) During the period of reference, two new commissions of work were created: "Migrants" and "Indigenous population".

Part II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations.

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

- 2006: the APDH made the following communications: to the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment concerning: the death of prisoners in Argentine jails, 10 July; the Penitentiary Service in Argentina, 13 July; to the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances about (1) the disappearance of Jorge Julio Lopez, key witness in the judicial process against former police official Miguel Etchecolatz, who was sentenced to life imprisonment for his involvement in the last dictatorship in Argentina, 22 September; (2) the disappearance of Luis Gerez, another key witness in the trials against torturers of the last dictatorship period in Argentina. 29 December, Geneva, Switzerland.

- A representative of the APDH met with desk officers of the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances. Moreover, she participated in a Seminar on the United Nations Human Rights Council organized by the World Federation of United Nations Associations and in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. 1-30 June 2006, Geneva, Switzerland.

- The 1st Session of the Human Rights Council, 19-30 June 2006, Geneva, Switzerland. Representatives attended and lobbied for the adoption of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and for the adoption of a Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The APDH also issued statements regarding the Universal Periodic Review, the review of special procedures, expert advice and complaint procedures.

- Representatives attended the Open-ended Working Group to consider options regarding the elaboration of an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Geneva, Switzerland, 6-17 February 2006.

- The APDH participated several times in the debate and presented documents to the Open-ended Working Group in charge of the elaboration of a draft legally binding normative instrument for the protection of all persons against forced disappearances, 1-5 September 2006, 12-23 September 2005, 4-8 October 2004 and 6-17 January 2003. Geneva, Switzerland.

- The 62nd Session of the Human Rights Commission. 15th March – 22nd April 2006, Geneva, Switzerland. The APDH attended the session and presented the following statements: *"El racismo, la discriminación racial, la xenophobia y todas las formas de discriminación", "Promoción y protección de los derechos humanos: infomación y educación".*

- The 61st Session of the Human Rights Commission. 14 March – 22 April 2005, Geneva, Switzerland. The APDH attended the session, participated in parallel meetings organized by governments and non-governmental organizations and presented the following oral statements: "The rights of the child", "Promotion and protection of human rights: status of the international covenants on human rights", "Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective", "Indigenous issues", "Economic, social and cultural rights" and "Civil and political rights".

- The 60th Session of the Human Rights Commission. 15 March – 23 April 2004, Geneva, Switzerland. Representatives of the APDH attended the session, participated in parallel meetings organized by governments and non-governmental organizations and presented oral statements regarding issues such as civil and political rights, rights of women, rights of the child, economic, social and cultural rights, indigenous people and Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or headquarters.

- Cooperation and advocacy to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) regarding the promotion of a Refugee Law Project. Joint sponsorship with the UNHCR of a petition urging the National Congress to pass a Refugee Law in accordance with the international standards on refugees. Buenos Aires, Argentina, 8 November 2006.

- Organization of a roundtable on the issue of discrimination with the special participation of Mr. Régis de Gouttes, Chairman of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). Buenos Aires, Argentina, 24 October 2006.

- Representatives participated in the "Day of General Discussion" fostered by the Committee on the rights of the child. Geneva, Switzerland, 15 September 2006.

- Organization of a roundtable and tribute to Mr. Theo Van Boven, Special Rapporteur on torture and former Director of the Division of Human Rights of the United Nations. Buenos Aires, Argentina, 26 May 2006.

- Participation in the "International Forum on the social science – policy nexus" organized by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Representatives prepared a paper - later presented at the meeting. 20-24 February 2006, Córdoba, Argentina.

- Participation in the "Regional Workshop on Democracy, Human Rights and Rule of Law", organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the inter-American Institute of Human Rights. The Vice president of the APDH presented his paper on the issue of "Access to Justice and Impunity". San José, Costa Rica, 19-20 September 2005.

ii) Activities in Support of Global Principles.

- Having in mind the 2001 cooperation project between the OHCHR and the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs, representatives of the APDH actively participated in the elaboration of the National Plan against Discrimination. The plan was elaborated throughout 2005 and published in April 2006.

- The "International Day of Older Persons" (1 October) was observed in 2005 by the APDH coordinating and co-organizing a symposium with the sponsorship of the United Nations Information Centre, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1 October 2005.

- The "World Human Rights Day" (10 December) was observed in 2004 by the organization. An intergenerational activity between grandparents and grandchildren was organized to promote the construction of a society for all ages, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 10 December 2005.

- Committed to the promotion of human rights education, the APDH has developed over the past years several training programmes aimed at building a universal culture of human rights. Since 2002, the Commission of Education of the APDH has been organizing Human Rights workshops oriented to train teachers and middle school children in the subject. The APDH has published several books aiming to increase the visibility and awareness about the importance of human rights issues. The book "Memory and Dictatorship. An understanding from the Human Rights perspective" was published in 2003 and "Discrimination. An approach from the Human Rights perspective" was published in 2003 and again in September 2005.

- Aiming at promoting and raising social awareness about the rights of women, the APDH has elaborated, published and distributed several books on the topic such as "Woman and Citizenship" in 2003, "Women and their rights" in 2004, "Women and Political Reform" in 2005 and "The power of Women" in 2006.